

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 IO-11

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FM AMEMBASSY BERLIN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2008

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

USMISSION USBERLIN

C O N F I D E N T I A L BERLIN 5169

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, GE, GW

SUBJECT: FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER TO VISIT LEIPZIG FAIR

1. AN OFFICER OF THE FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN CALLED ON EMBOFF JANUARY 30 TO SAY THAT ARRANGEMENTS WERE BEING MADE FOR FRG ECONOMICS MINISTER FRIEDRICHS TO VISIT THE LEIPZIG FAIR ON MONDAY, MARCH 15. ACCORDING TO SOURCE, FRIEDRICHS' VISIT WILL BE THE FIRST OF A WEST GERMAN ECONOMICS MINISTER TO THE LEIPZIG FAIR. HE SAID A SCHEDULED VISIT BY THEN MINISTER SCHILLER IN 1968

FELL THROUGH FOR INTERNAL GRAND COALITION REASONS. IN HONOR OF FRIEDRICHS' VISIT, FRG PERMANENT REPRESENTATION CHIEF GAUS WILL HOST A RECEPTION IN LEIPZIG ON THE EVENING OF MONDAY, MARCH 15. ON TUESDAY, FRIEDRICHS IS TO PAY A BRIEF VISIT TO THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATION IN EAST BERLIN, AND THEN RETURN TO BONN.

2. FRG OFFICER SAID IT IS NOT BONN'S INTENTION THAT THE VISIT BE AN "EVENT", AND THERE IS NO PLAN AT THIS TIME FOR A PROGRAM OF FRG-GDR CONTACT, OTHER THAN THE EXPECTED PRESENCE OF SENIOR GDR OFFICIAL AT GAUS' RECEPTION.

3. THE EMBASSY NOTES THAT A MONDAY VISIT WILL ALLOW FRIEDRICHS TO AVOID THE TRADITIONAL OPENING OF THE FAIR, INCLUDING THE "STATE
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AND PARTY" WALKTHROUGH BY THE GDR LEADERSHIP SUNDAY MORNING.

GROVE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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